

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 15

February 26, 1954 -  
May 11, 1954

0550

February 26, 1954

Dear Mr. Blair:

I am sending you in accordance with your desires the dimensions requested on the attached rough drawing. I hope this gives you exactly what you wish.

I was sorry if I sounded irritable to your representative concerning the movements of the Allied forces in the Battle of Savo Island, but to be honest I was irritable. This film is a study of the Battle of Savo Island and not a study, except in a general way, of the movements of the forces hours before the battle. It is definitely important to know the movements of the ships and groups during the battle and it is there that we should spend our time.

I very carefully left out of the book the very details that your assistants are trying to put into the film. I did this to avoid too much detail in unimportant places.

All of this additional data worries me and should worry you as it will increase the length of the film which is already long and may increase the cost to you, although that is your problem.

I cannot see that it makes any difference whatsoever to an observer of this film in which direction the Chicago Group changed course five hours before the battle.

We are having the same trouble here in the Battle for Leyte Gulf. We are trying to keep out unnecessary detail. It is so easy to get bogged down in such matters as to delay the book and, on occasions, to confuse the issue.

If you will remember, I objected, even in the story board, to the addition of certain information which I didn't consider important. Nevertheless, your artists insisted on including same with the result that there is a good deal of information in the film which could have been left out. As an example we have that radio diagram information which, while not hurting the film, doesn't improve it enough to justify the time or the money spent on it. This is so because no one, from the diagrams, can remember throughout the film what the radio hook-up actually was. To learn this they must study the book. In this connection it seems wise to point out here - I think that the foreword of the film explains it - that this film merely reflects the most important

0551

aspects of command during the battle and the whole story can only be obtained by studying the book.

Would it not be to the mutual benefit of all concerned to confine ourselves as best we can to the story board and make modifications only as necessary to clarify some important point? Do you not agree that in this manner all of us will profit since the film will be shortened? Films that are too long can become a bore, and money spent as above will not be available should more important changes be necessary.

I thought that our last meeting was excellent and I will look for similar successes from now on.

Outside of this, how are you?

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Lee Blair  
Film Graphics Inc.  
~~226~~ West 55th Street  
New York, New York

(copy to Mr. G. I. Johnson)

0552

February 26, 1954

Dear Admiral Riefkohl:

I have been wondering if I could obtain a photograph of you, preferably in a blue uniform, at the time of the Battle of Savo Island. I have been collecting photographs of the principal commanders who were connected with that famous battle and have succeeded in obtaining photographs of everyone, including General Douglas MacArthur, with a single exception of yourself.

If you will send this photograph to me at the Naval War College here I should very much appreciate your courtesy.

It was nice to have seen you at the New York Yacht Club when you were in New York last fall and to hear of your successful peacetime activities. With best regards and with hopes that you are continuing to enjoy life, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Frederick L. Riefkohl, USN(Ret)  
South Merritt Island  
Route #1  
Cocoa, Florida

0553

February 26, 1954

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter which I addressed today to our friend Mr. Lee Blair at Film Graphics. The matter arose because one of Mr. Blair's artists called me and asked which way the Chicago Group turned after the Australia had left. I was quite surprised and told him that this made no difference whatsoever, and I didn't know where I could look for the data.

I finally succeeded in discovering that the Chicago Group changed course to the right by column movement and I informed Mr. Blair about it. I gave him the data he wished because I felt that it would be too bad to waste all of the time that had been spent on this one important item.

Today I have written this letter to Mr. Blair to reiterate what I told him on the telephone, and I am sending you a copy with the hope that you will agree with the views herein expressed.

I say to you here, what I said in the letter to Mr. Blair, that I thought our last meeting was excellent and that it took a big load off my soul.

I have written to Captain Riefkohl and asked for a photograph as per Mr. Blair's request.

Mr. Blair told me that he wanted to get as much live film of night firing as possible. I hope that you can find some for him. He says that that colored film which I mentioned to you can well be converted to black and white and used in the film if suitable.

With best regards to you and Captain McElroy, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. G. I. Johnson  
Naval Photo Center  
Anacostia  
Washington, D. C.

R. W. BATES

0554

*Autograph  
Definied*

March 3, 1954

Dear Mr. Hession:

In accordance with my statement of Monday, I am enclosing herewith the last changes which I plan to make on this Volume of the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

Therefore, as far as the War College is concerned, the book is ready for publication. I hope it gets into press immediately.

I appreciate the thoughtfulness and restraint of your office in your dealings with me over the publication. I know that these little changes are bothersome, but I never publish anything that I cannot support and fortunately recent translations from my translator in Washington so supported my views that I felt it necessary to include them. This can account for part of the delay.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Encl/ pp. 243, 256, 300, 355, 356, 367, 412, 418, 457,  
458, 461, 462, 465.

Mr. John J. Hession  
Bureau of Naval Personnel  
Room 4056 Arlington Annex  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0555

March 4, 1954

Dear John:

I have received a copy of the letter from Mechanicsburg to you from Captain Kelly of your office.

I appreciate receiving it, but, at the same time, I am sorry to receive it because it shows that somebody or some organization is thoroughly incompetent somewhere.

In the War College letter to you of 16 December 1953 (NWC Serial 3126-53) we stated that we desired, in particular, CTF 77's dispatches during the Battle for Leyte Gulf, and presumed that they must be in SEVENTH Fleet files. Nobody seems to know where these dispatches are. Mechanicsburg infers that they must be at the Naval War College. Nothing could be further from the truth!

I got so concerned about these dispatches that last week I sent Commander A.H. Bowker from this office to Mechanicsburg. He discovered that (a) except for the last month of the war the Records Management Center had no record of any Commander SEVENTH Fleet top secret dispatches; (b) they could give no information as to their whereabouts; (c) the filing system is very poor, and in order to find anything it is necessary to look through the numerous boxes in which the correspondence is stored, and (d) correspondence, for the most part, is stored only by year and Navy filing number, without regard to the subject or content.

Commander Bowker therefore feels that it is quite possible that the information which this office requires is still at Mechanicsburg.

Two Records Management Center personnel, a Miss Lynch and Mrs. Copeland, stated that they would continue the search and would inform this office as to their results. We are writing a letter this date to ascertain what information they have found.

0556

I am wondering if it is not possible for you to have the Mechanicsburg files adequately searched, as it is of vital importance to know when Admiral Kinkaid received Admiral Halsey's dispatches?

As a last resort, you might ask Admiral Kinkaid if he has a copy of these dispatches indicating the time of transmittal and the time of receipt by him.

With very best regards, I am,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral John B. Heffernan, USN  
Director of Naval History  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (Op-29)  
Room 2509 MAIN NAVY  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0557



March 8, 1954

Dear Mr. Blair:

As you know, I have been worrying for sometime about the Joint Chiefs of Staff setup which you have in the film. It is alright, so far as I know, concerning the Navy and the Army, but the Air Force is wrong. It should say:

ARMY AIR FORCES  
Commanding General  
Gen. H.H. Arnold,  
(AC) USA

instead of AIR CORPS C. of Staff.

I am sorry about this because I know that it is going to cause a little delay, but I have checked numerous sources and I have found that this correction is right and should be made.

The reason for the foul-up, even in the book of Savo Island is because the Army was at the time shifting title from Chief of Staff Air Corps to Commanding General Army Air Forces, and somehow we were unable to clarify it. Recent publications, however, plus conversations with the Secretary of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has straightened this out for Leyte and now it is straightened out for Savo Island.

The fault is not in any manner yours. It is solely mine and I am sorry about it. However, if you will remember, I knew that there was something wrong with that diagram and it is only now that I feel satisfied that I have the correct answer. What must be done to correct it?

Outside of this, I want you to know that I asked Admiral Conolly to step in there some day to see what you have done with the film. So if he steps in I hope you will show it to him.

I think that Part I, or as far as I have seen, is first-rate and I am sure that the live film which you are endeavoring to obtain will be very helpful indeed. I certainly appreciate the manner in which you are seeking live film suitable for this action.

0558

I remember that you had planned to send me the sketches of those few commanders which had not been approved. To date I have not seen them. Perhaps you would prefer not to send them.

I have written to Captain Reifkohl to ask for a picture of himself, but I have not as yet heard from him. Is there anyone else whose picture is missing?

In making the change above from AIR CORPS C.of Staff to ARMY AIR FORCES Commanding General it might be well at the same time to use the term force instead of fce after the various commands. I remember that Mr. Salter had fce after them and I let them go because I didn't want to do the whole slide over, but I think in making the change now it might be well to use the word force, in lieu of fce.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Lee Blair  
President, Film Graphics, Inc.  
245 W. 55th Street  
New York, N.Y.

March 10, 1954

Dear Mr. Hession:

When I wrote you last I had expected not to write you again about Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, but despite the most careful proofreading little mistakes occur.

I just found one in the discussion of the SHO Plan on page 462, where, in the second paragraph from the bottom line two, it states "October 10th" instead of "September 10th".

It is not a vital mistake as the reference on the bottom of the page gives the correct date. However, I think there is time to get this correction in the book, and therefore I would appreciate your kindness in handling this if you can.

I hope that you are not tired of hearing from me!

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Encl/page 462

R.W. BATES

Mr. John Hession  
Bureau of Naval Personnel  
Room 4056 Arlington Annex  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0560

March 11, 1954

Dear Mr. Blair:

As a matter of humor I am sending you one of the leaflets dropped by the Navy at the capture of the Philippines.

You can see where our old friend MacArthur is wearing his khaki tie. He is a strange fellow! Notice that as he goes into the Admiralties he puts a raincover on his hat--he was going to protect that hat come what may!

The picture around the guns shows him and Admiral Kinkaid. Perhaps that is the way Admiral Kinkaid dressed at sea--ashore he wore a green silk helmet.

Hope everything is going along well!

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Encl/

R.W. BATES

Mr. Lee Blair  
President, Film Graphics Inc  
245 W. 55th Street  
New York, N.Y.

0561

March 12, 1954

Dear Captain Nutting:

I am noting with interest the orders to officers coming out these days and I have observed the orders of two officers to my Staff--Captain Titus and Commander Zerkle. I think it likely that the third officer's orders have also been issued--he is to be an aviator--but, I have not noted them as yet. I still rate and desire one additional officer.

We discussed this quite thoroughly when I was down there last time. I realize that you are looking out for this and will find me the proper man. I want you to know in this regard that I talked over this matter with Captain Moore, the acting Chief of Staff of the War College, and with Commander Barry--in charge of personnel. It is recognized that this billet is mine and should be filled, and the war college wants to see it filled.

At the present time my vacant billet is being filled temporarily by a LTJG, and this officer is being used in administration. The War College would like to retain the LTJG as an extra number if possible.

Commander Barry states that the College did not ask for this jg to fill my vacant billet--made vacant by the forced retirement of Captain Rochefort under the Davis Amendment--but that BuPers had kindly done it as a gesture of good sportmanship.

I am hoping one of these days to get word from you that you have ~~get~~ me a War College graduate, preferably a Commander, and that he will be here presently.

I am writing this letter to you with considerable reluctance as I know that in your new assignment you are extremely busy, and should not be bothered, even by well-meaning friends!

0562

Have you heard what they are saying about Jimmy Roosevelt in California? They say that he got all 91 votes from the California Democratic Committee when he was selected as the Democratic candidate for Congressman from the 26th District because they are anxious to get him out of the area. The Democratic slogan is "Elect Roosevelt--the WIFE you save may be your own!"

With very best regards to you and your staff, I am, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Captain Kelvin L. Nutting, USN  
Bureau of Naval Personnel  
Room 3077 Arlington Annex  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0563

March 12, 1954

Dear Captain Havard:

In view of the fact that Captain Pederson is in the hospital and since my office is producing the analyses you requested, your letter of February 9th has been referred to me.

I should like very much to have the books known to the officers of the fleet through your office and through the Combat Readiness Magazine. We have copies available, but before I send them I wish to give you a caution, after which if you still request them we will send them.

The caution is this. The analyses are not for the Navy as a whole. They are restricted to supposedly the high command, but the distribution has become broader and broader. We started out with a circulation of less than 500 and it is now 1500. I think that it will be the same for Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf which is now in the press.

At the present time these analyses are sent to Destroyer Escorts and above and to Air Squadrons and above. They don't get too much perusal on the ships because, being classified confidential they are put in the safe, and their presence is not always known.

It is not the policy to circulate the analyses anywhere outside the Navy.

I have been discussing with BuPers and the Naval Examining Board the possibility of using them in examinations for promotion to Commander and Captain. The decision was decided favorably for this, just before the Korean war, but what today's decision will be I do not know.

Films have been made of the Coral Sea and Midway analyses and one is now being produced for Savo Island. These films are for Navy distribution--and wardroom showings--and are made in parts for this purpose. I should like to suggest that you call Captain McElroy at the Naval Photo-

graphic Center at Anacostia and have a showing. You will find them very fine. I say this with modesty because, although they are my own idea, the favorable reports on them are from other sources.

All Flag Officers, excepting Staff Flag Officers, are on the mailing list for individual copies.

What do you wish me to do now?

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Captain V. Havard, Jr., USN  
Head of Fleet Training & Readiness Branch  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations  
Room 4C515 PENTAGON Bldg.  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.



March 22, 1954

Dear Mr. Blair:

Our meeting on Friday was quite satisfactory and it seems that we are progressing.

There is still one point on General MacArthur that I think would be well to discover before you do anything more with him. I suggest that you call his office and ask whether the General, in 1942, wore four stars on both sides of his collar or whether he wore four stars--on the right side--with US on the left side.

The reason I am suggesting this is, that, in looking back in the New York Times of August 1942, I noted a photograph of General Marshall with US on the left side of his collar and probably four stars on the right side. I could not see the right side.

I know this is a nuisance, but it is so easy to have it right if only we would consult with the proper authorities. Since General MacArthur was an independent operator, it is wiser to consult with his staff than with Washington.

I have written to the Navy Department about the photograph of Captain Bode. If we don't hear very shortly we will use the photograph which you have.

I enjoyed the luncheon very much and particularly the Chutney. I hope that your Mrs. appreciated our noble?? efforts to get it!

I am always available to review anything which you have done so don't hesitate to call on me, as I am very anxious to help you in expediting it.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Mr. Lee Blair  
President, Film Graphics Inc  
245 W. 55th Street  
New York, N.Y.

0566

March 23, 1954

Dear Dick:

It was a great pleasure as always to be associated with you on Friday evening and Saturday last. I always enjoy being at your home and now that you have had your "shake down" it is even more enjoyable than heretofore.

I was glad to talk to you about the operations at Leyte and to discuss with you Admiral Struble's failure to conduct scheduled fires prior to the landings of the Panson Attack Group. I am enclosing herewith two pages of the write-up of Admiral Struble's forces on October 20th, and I have included my comments on the subject which we discussed. I should appreciate your reactions to these comments. You don't have to write me a letter as I know you are busy, but a few personal notes on the enclosed pages will suffice.

Your friend General Shepherd was here yesterday and gave an interesting talk on Marine accomplishments. I enjoyed hearing him. His address was essentially a glowing account of Marine accomplishments, but it was, in many places, very much to the point. We talked about you and there is no doubt he considers you "tops" in your field.

Thanks for everything! I will write Helen a note of appreciation. It sure was fun to be with you!

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Encl/

Admiral R.L. Conolly, USN(Ret)  
President, Long Island University  
385 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

0567

25 March 1954

Dear Captain Moore:

I have been informed by Captain Simmers that you are going to order Commander Bowker to Port Lyautey, French Morocco. I am very glad to hear this because Commander Bowker is very anxious to have this job and, as I have pointed out before, he has done so much for this office that I feel that his performance is entitled to recognition.

I am now awaiting with interest your orders for Commander Hindman. I told him that you had told me that he was slated for an Air Group which pleased him very much. He is quite sharp mentally.

I have seen the orders for Commander Zirkle. I was glad to see them although I was startled to note that he wasn't going to get here until sometime in August. However, we will let that ride.

I have not seen the orders of the other 1300 officer who was supposed to be Commander Waring, since Commander Stott has been ordered to the War College as a student. The fact that I have not seen Commander Waring's orders does not mean that you have not issued them, for it is likely that I missed them.

I want to thank you for your assistance to me in obtaining competent officers for my staff. It is tough for both of us because everybody wants the best.

However, since practically all of my people heretofore have received top assignments I am anxious to continue that policy. I believe that an officer learns more about actual warfare with me here than anywhere else in the Navy because here we are studying actual situations.

Among the 1300 officers of consequence I have had are Bill Ashford, Joe Cobb, Dave Richardson and Paul Hartman. Therefore, I note their successes.

I hope that (1) my people will continue to get top

0568

assignments and (2) only top people are sent to me.

With best regards and with a good "hello" to  
Admirals Ofstie and Rees, I am,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES

Captain Robert B. Moore, USN  
Office of Chief of Naval Operations  
Room 4E16 PENTAGON BUILDING  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0569

25 March 1954

Dear Mr. Blair:

I am returning to you the drawing of Captain Riefkohl.

I think that it is surprisingly good and the President of the Naval War College concurs.

I am glad that you sent it as it is an example of what we are attempting to accomplish in the line of sketches of the commanders.

I will be ready to proceed to New York whenever you say and the sooner the better as I wish to go to Washington on the same trip.

I was glad that you checked on General MacArthur. I was pretty sure that the four stars on both collars was correct. However, it was only today that it dawned on me why this was so. General MacArthur was the Supreme Allied Commander and as such, I think, he felt that he represented the Allied nations rather than the U.S. Army. Therefore, since he was able to choose his own uniform, he did it this way.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Encl/

R.W. BATES

Mr. Lee E. Blair  
President  
Film Graphics Inc  
245 W. 55th Street  
New York, N.Y.

0570

AIRMAIL-SPECIAL DELIVERY

29 March 1954

Dear Roger:

Mrs. Tanaka has asked me if she could see the film "Battle of the Coral Sea" to be shown at the Pentagon on April 1st.

I have no objection to her seeing this film and, in fact, it might show her more nearly what I am seeking than my words might do. On the other hand I want to know what her clearance is. I have no objection to her seeing what I have written on the Japanese side, but the Battle of the Coral Sea embraces the American side as well.

If you feel, from your knowledge of the situation there, that her clearance is adequate I should like for you to arrange for her to see this film. If, on the other hand, her clearance does not permit, I regretfully insist that you do not make arrangements for her to see it.

If you are confused, you might consult with Admiral Heffernan.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Mr. Roger Pineau  
Office of Naval History  
Room 2517 MAIN NAVY Building  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0571

31 March 1954

Dear McKillip:

In checking back on the question of weather data for our Leyte Gulf charts I encountered your letter which stated that you would have it ready for us by the end of January.

It is now the end of March and we have not as yet received it.

I don't want you to feel from this that I am critical of you in anyway because, I realize the problems with which you are faced today; notably loss of personnel. However, I am taking this means of reminding you that we would like to get the weather data presently as we are trying to put Volume II in some sort of form so that it may be reviewed.

I hope things are going along well with you. All of us who were here at the War College when you were, fondly remember the "McKillip fillip" which you and your Mrs. gave us all!

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES

Captain John C.S. McKillip  
Office of Chief of Naval Operations (Op-533)  
Room 5E609 PENTAGON Building  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0572

26 April 1954

Dear Captain Nutting:

I am getting a little concerned because I haven't heard a thing about my extra 1100 officer to whom I am entitled by the allowance and for whom I have asked. I realize that you have many problems of which mine is of lesser precedence and I don't want to press you in any way. My only reason for writing you this letter therefore is to assure myself that my needs have not been forgotten and will be attended to. I must repeat here what I have said before, which is, that the Naval War College which "messed my setup" is quite anxious that the correct situation shall be restored.

Admiral McCormick takes command next Monday which will be extremely gratifying to everyone. I say this without being in any way critical of Admiral Robbins who has done a very fine job indeed despite the trying circumstances of his temporary position. As you may know, I was in a similar position for sometime--it is not easy as you don't have the prestige necessary to accomplish fully your objectives. With the arrival of Admiral McCormick we will be restored to complete normalcy. In addition we shall have as President a man who enjoys world-wide recognition which will enhance the Naval War College and a very competent Chief of Staff--Admiral Robbins.

With best regards to you and your staff and many thanks for all the kindly interest you have shown in me and my office, I am, as ever,

Sincerely,

R.W. BATES

Captain Kelvin L. Nutting, USN  
Bureau of Naval Personnel  
Room 3077 Arlex  
Washington 25, D.C.

0573



4 May 1954

Dear Captain Moore:

I am addressing this to you in a form of a query to ascertain what has happened to the orders of Commander Stanley E. Hindman of my staff.

He has heard numerous rumors relating thereto, one of which I brought back from you. This was to the effect that he was to command an Air Group somewhere, possibly at Quonset Point, or Jacksonville. I wrote to Admiral Ballentine about his (Ballentine's) possible retirement and in the same letter asked him what he planned to do with Commander Hindman. I have heard nothing from Admiral Ballentine as yet, but I presume this is due to his illness since he is an old friend of mine.

Commander Hindman now hears rumors that he may be ordered to a VX Squadron at Atlantic City. Can you give me any information as to your prospective plans for Commander Hindman?

I am very anxious for him to have a decent job as he is smart and well-rounded, and as most of the people who have been through this section have always obtained excellent jobs heretofore, I want him to have an excellent assignment also. Since you are a graduate of the War College and were here with me you perhaps know that the training in this section is more valuable than in most other places because here we are working on the actual situations. Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf will be out presently and I suggest that you read it. It will prove up this point.

Admiral McCormick took command yesterday in a very simple but impressive ceremony. He delivered a modest but all-embracing off the cuff talk which was extremely well received. In Admiral McCormick we have the right President of the Naval War College.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Sincerely,

Captain William B. Moore, USN  
Office of Chief of Naval Operations R.W. BATES  
Room 4D546 PENTAGON Building  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0574

6 May 1954

Dear Captain Burke:

Every little while I find it necessary to bother you about some matter but I suppose you don't object as it reassures you that the War College is still functioning.

This is my new problem:

My chief yeoman, BURTON, Maurice W., 413 40 23, YNC (YN2501-85), USN will have completed three (3) years shore duty in August. His family has lived in Revere, Mass during his tour of duty here at the War College, which has made it quite difficult for him. However, he has borne this handicap with great fortitude and I feel that he should receive recognition for his devoted and loyal service. Because he has four children who are in school, he is anxious to discover his new assignment in time to be able to move them before the new school year commences at the place of his new assignment. I am not anxious to lose him at this time as we are pretty heavily engaged in making all that we can out of my Staff before June 30th. Should BURTON leave, I would require another yeoman, not necessarily a chief yeoman, but a yeoman of high intelligence who can take shorthand. I had such a yeoman before whom I obtained from ComONE, but he didn't pan out in other ways and I had to prevail on your good graces to get me someone else.

I know that it is not policy to ask you to find me a suitable yeoman, but as BURTON will tell you, this work is difficult and no run-of-the-mill yeoman will do. I should like to make BURTON available for transfer sometime in June in accordance with his request. He has also requested that he be made available to ServLant for assignment.

You will remember that he served under you at Holy Cross College and it seems to me that between us we should be able to arrange something which would be satisfactory to all.

0575

At the present time HODGES, YNC, who was with Admiral McCormick is here at the War College, but the Admiral has put him to work on Global Strategy and he is not available to me now. Perhaps I can get him later.

Will you do me the kindness of getting me a yeoman of competence?

With very best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Captain Edward J. Burke, USN  
Bureau of Naval Personnel  
Room 2805 ARLINGTON ANNEX  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

0576

7 May 1954

Dear Mr. Blair:

I think that now you have all the points raised except possibly two; one, the drawing of the sleeve which Commander Cruiser Force directed should be flown on each side of the bridge; the other, the 40mm guns. I shall discuss each in turn.

(a) Sleeve.

1. Commander Cruiser Forces orders quoted from page 76, paragraph 5, Battle of Savo Island was as follows:

"As a means of recognition each ship will display white sleeves on each side of the bridge. Each sleeve will be one meter in diameter and seven meters long."

2. The opinion of the staff is that the device flown more nearly resembles a pennant than a sleeve and is shown on only one wing of the bridge.

(b) 40mm Guns.

There appear to have been no 40mm guns on any of the ships at the Battle of Savo Island. This includes the new San Juan. Therefore the 40mm live film will have to be replaced with 1".1 or 20mm.

I expect to hear from you on Monday concerning the Washington visit. I hope that it pans out as you wish. Your visit up here was a great success. I look for equal success in Washington.

With best regards, I am,

Very Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Lee Blair  
Film Graphics  
245 W. 55th Street  
New York, N. Y.

0577

10 May 1954

Dear Captain McElroy:

I plan to be in Washington on Monday for the review of parts I and II of the Battle of Savo Island film.

I will stay at the University Club, 16th Street between L and M Streets.

I should appreciate your courtesy if you will send me a car on Monday morning (18 May 1954) at about 0900 for transportation to the Naval Photographic Center.

You will be interested to know that the first part of the Battle of Savo Island film met with enthusiastic approval here at the War College. Vice Admiral Lynde D. McCormick, USN, President of the Naval War College, stated, "Very interesting and very effective", and the students have asked for more. They are anxious to see the battle, at least, before they leave the College.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Commodore, USN (Ret)

Captain John H. McElroy, USN  
Commanding Officer  
U.S. Naval Photographic Center  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Anacostia  
Washington, D. C.

0578

10 May 1954

Dear Mr. Hession:

I expect to be in Washington on Monday to attend the review of the first two parts of the Battle of Savo Island film, at the Naval Photographic Center.

While in Washington, I will contact you to ascertain the progress of Volume I of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. I request that you do not mail out any copies of this battle until I have seen it. This is important, because the first copies of the Battle of Savo Island were so poorly done that we were forced to return them to the Government Printing Office and have them redone. I do not want this to happen in this case!

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. John J. Hession  
Bureau of Naval Personnel  
Room 4056 ARLINGTON ANNEX  
Washington 25, D. C.

0579

11 May 1954

Dear Mr. Blair:

Since writing and talking to you, I have suddenly remembered a point which was made during the showing of the film and which you probably have already corrected but in order to be sure, I am mentioning the matter again.

When the Commanding General FIRST Marine Division went to Tulagi at 0045 August 9th after the conference with Admiral Turner and Crutchley on the McCAWLEY he went on the destroyer SOUTHARD. The SOUTHARD was a four-stack destroyer. It seems to me that in the live film we show a single-stack destroyer. There should be plenty of live film showing four-stack destroyers.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Mr. Lee Blair  
President,  
Film Graphics Inc  
245 W. 55th Street  
New York, N.Y.

RWB/mwb

0580

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
Washington 25, D.C.

May 11 1953

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, U.S. Navy  
728 Santa Barbara Road  
Berkeley 7, California

Dear Admiral:

I believe I now have at hand sufficient factual material to provide you with the correct story about the "WHERE IS TASK FORCE 34" dispatch.

I have just read again "With Kurita in the Battle for Leyte Gulf" in the February 1953 "Naval Institute Proceedings."

I regret that my literary ability is limited, Admiral, and I hope you will forgive no attempt on my part to put this in story form. I will confine myself to facts and such portion of the events which I feel certain of in my own memory.

The Communications Instructions in effect at the time stated in part as follows:

"4261. In order to protect particularly short messages, arrival or departure reports and other messages of an unavoidably stereotyped form, the coding officer is authorized to add padding when encrypting such messages. Padding must not be used to excess or as a matter of routine. It need not be used at both ends of a message unless the phraseology at both ends is stereotyped. Padding must be employed when a message is encrypted in more than one system. Padding should always be deleted after decryption, prior to delivery.

"4262. To serve its purpose when used, padding must not itself become stereotyped. It must not imitate or copy padding seen in other messages. The length should be varied.

a. It should not consist of such phrases as 'Good morning', 'Good night', 'Good-bye', 'Hello again', 'Here we go again', 'This is a long one', 'Happy days', and 'That's all'. It is equally important that other phrases of a similar nature be avoided.

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Declassified as per authority of General Declassification  
Schedule of Executive Order 12958, 17 April 1995

0581



May 11 1953

b. It should contain no quotations from popular songs and no references to current holidays, current sports, or current events of national importance.

"4263. Other considerations which govern padding are:

a. It must have no connection with the text of the message in form, thought, or wording.

b. It must not be disrespectful, profane, or obscene.

c. It should not be used as a vehicle for passing personal messages.

d. If used at both ends, the padding at the beginning should have no connection with that at the end, since cryptanalytic recovery of one would give a clue to the other. Use of the same word or words at each end is likewise undesirable.

"4264. For the sake of clarity, padding may be separated from the text of the message by double letters, providing they have no possible connection with the text. Neither XX nor KK shall be used for this purpose, nor shall the same letters be used at both ends of the message."

NOTE: The underlining is mine.

The text of the outgoing CINCPAC dispatch, as transmitted is as follows:

"TURKEY TROTS TO WATER GG (Address) X WHERE IS RPT WHERE IS TASK FORCE THIRTY-FOUR RR THE WORLD WONDERS"

The translation which appears in COMINCH files is as follows:

"FROM CINCPAC  
TO COMMANDER THIRD FLEET

INFORMATION: COMINCH  
CTF 77

WHERE IS TASK FORCE 34"

This is the form in which it should have been delivered to all final addressees.

0582

May 11 1953

I am not certain when or how Admiral Halsey mentioned the end padding to you, but my memory serves me that it was the first time he returned to Pearl after the Leyte Gulf operations. At any rate -- you directed me to investigate the circumstances. I got the message out of file and located the Ensign who enciphered it. I do not recall his name. It certainly appeared that he at least showed poor judgement and had, intentionally or not, violated that part of the instructions which stated that the padding should have no connection with the text of the message in form, thought, or wording. He swore he meant nothing by it -- that it was just something that popped into his head to fulfill padding requirements. His reputation among his associates had been excellent as was his performance of duty until that time. I informed you of these facts and I believe you felt we should remove him from further possible temptation of expressing personal thoughts in padding and he was transferred to other duty.

However, I consider that the violation at COMTHIRD FLEET's end to have been much worse. The separator letters RR were properly used and it should have been quite obvious to any decoding officer that the words "THE WORLD WONDERS" were padding. Their transfer to the final write-up copy and delivery to superiors either as part of the basic text or in any form was in my opinion rather stupid and unpardonable. The question occurs in my mind as to what happened to the "beginning" padding "TURKEY TROTS TO WATER". I can't believe myself that the communicators on the COMTHIRD FLEET staff who handled the write-up thought the words "THE WORLD WONDERS" were a bonifide statement by CINCPAC. The worst I can conceive is that a straight decryption with both the beginning and ending padding, or possibly with only the ending padding, inadvertently or otherwise, was allowed to reach the hands of superior officers. In either case it seems to me that the non-military nature of the language in the padding should have evoked inquiry with a resultant immediate disclosure that the words were padding. I don't for a minute feel that it was delivered in the form as stated in the Coronet article.

It is difficult to advise you with regard to the question of security. The security officer in the office of the Director of Naval Communications advises that the actual unedited message is still SECRET and he expressed the opinion that Admiral Stone's previous memorandum to you dated 2 December 1947 appeared to be low in classification as RESTRICTED. I have classified this letter as CONFIDENTIAL.

I discussed this project with Admiral Fechteler. He directed me to furnish you with what you required and convey his respects and kindest personal regards.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

May 11 1953

I felt that it was essential for you to see the original unedited despatch in order to clearly evaluate the problem, but should you ever decide on any publication of a story, I feel that if you confine disclosures to the points set forth below, it will not be harmful to our interests, and could be used in an unclassified manner.

1. That the instructions in effect at the time authorized the use of padding both at the beginning and end of short messages to protect them from cryptanalytical attack. That amongst other things such padding must have no connection with the text of the message in form, thought, or wording. That the padding should always be deleted after decryption prior to delivery. That for the sake of clarity, padding phrases may be separated from the text by easily recognizable separator letters.

2. That the despatch in question had two padding phrases, one at the beginning which read "TURKEY TROTS TO WATER" and one at the end which read "THE WORLD WONDERS". That these phrases were properly separated from the text by separators provided for in effective instructions.

I hope the above fulfills your requirements.

With kindest personal regards.

Very respectfully,

/s/ Redman  
JOHN R. REDMAN  
Rear Admiral, US. Navy

Enclosure: Copy of article "The Poem that Changed a Battle" from Coronet Magazine, December 1952.

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C-O-P-Y

0584